

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
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REPORT OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1944

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SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Salcombe, S.Devon.

Telephone: Salcombe 208.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Dr.R.H.Dummett.

Dr.W.C.Smales.

1.1.44. - 30.9.44.

1.10.44.- 31.12.44.

Council Offices,
Plympton.

Clerk to M.O.H., Miss Prowse.

Telephone: Plympton 2244.

Manor House,
Kingsbridge.

Clerk to M.O.H., Miss
Hendrickson.

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2004.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices, Salcombe, S.Devon.

Telephone: Salcombe 63.

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT.

for the YEAR ending DEC. 31st, 1944.

Medical Officer of Health: DR.R.H.DUMMETT, M.B., Ch.B.

DR.W.C.SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
1.1.44. - 30.9.44.
1.10.44.- 31.12.44.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: MR.R.LUSHER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1944.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) - 1,181

Population - The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population - 2165

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to the Rate Books - 779

Rateable Value - £21,196

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £85

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births - Total, 33. Male, 18. Female, 15.

Live (legitimate) - Male, 18. Female, 10.

Live (illegitimate) - Male, 0. Female, 5.

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population - 15.24

STILL BIRTHS - 1. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 29.40

DEATHS - 32. Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 14.78

Deaths (from Puerperal Causes) - Nil.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age. All infants per 1,000 live births - Nil.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - Nil

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 7

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) - Nil

The conditions of occupation and of environment on the whole have not had a prejudicial influence on the general health or mortality.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural and Kingsbridge Rural and Urban Districts, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority and the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Water Board.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional). One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided by the County Council for the examination of milk and water in addition to the usual bacteriological examinations.

PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN - Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin and Scarlatinal Serum. Material is also supplied for the immunisation of children of the district against Diphtheria free of cost.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding district:-

Men's ward	...	6 beds
Women's ward	...	6 beds
Children's Cots	...	2
Private wards	...	2 - 1 bed each.

It is supported by voluntary effort.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL - None in the district, but by arrangements with the Kingsbridge Rural District Council and with the Plymouth City Council, infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to the Modbury Auxiliary Isolation Hospital and the Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth, respectively.

The arrangements referred to are provisional only, pending the completion and adoption of a Scheme under Section 63, of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of hospital accommodation for this part of the Administrative County and which Scheme is in the course of preparation.

NURSING IN THE HOME - The Salcombe Nursing Association is doing excellent work.

No. of General Visits for the year was 2,123 (97 cases)
No. of Maternity Visits for the year was 296 (15 cases)

MIDWIVES - The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE - There is a Centre in Salcombe which is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT. At the Venereal Disease Dept., City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council, and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner in Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as In-Patients at Exeter and Ivybridge; and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-Patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge and the South West Clinic which deals with this district as well is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>
Scarlet Fever	4
C.S.M.	1
Erysipelas	2
Measles	1
Pneumonia	1
Dysentery	1
Whooping Cough	40
Chicken Pox	5
TOTAL	55

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. Every effort is made to ensure that parents avail themselves of this service for the protection of their children against Diphtheria.

Diphtheria I would emphasise that in the treatment of Diphtheria, serum should be given at the earliest possible moment, and preferably in one adequately large dose.

The doctor should never wait for the laboratory report before giving antitoxin if he considers on clinical grounds that the patient may be suffering from Diphtheria.

Every attempt should be made by means of bus or passenger train services, special messenger, or by personal delivery to ensure that the swab reaches the laboratory in as short a time as possible after it is taken.

It is important to obtain immediate medical advice in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

<u>Age Period</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-respiratory</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5 - 10 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 20 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 70 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
70 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. (1) The water supply is obtained from the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board and is most satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

(11) Analyses of the raw water are occasionally made and frequent analyses of the water as supplied to the consumers. Eleven samples were taken during the year and all proved satisfactory.

(111) No trace of lead was found in chemical analyses.

(1V) The water supply is chlorinated at the Board's works at South Brent.

(V) It is estimated that 98% of the houses are supplied from the public mains direct to the houses and 1% from standpipes and 1% from private supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Plans were prepared for a new main sewer from Allenhayes Road to the sea but the work could not be commenced owing to war conditions. The outfall sewers on the foreshore were continually broken up by naval vessels and although repairs and diversions were carried out at a cost of over £400 the condition of the outfalls was very unsatisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. In order to effect a saving of labour the twice weekly system of refuse collection was discontinued and a weekly collection of refuse is now made. No complaints have been received.

HOUSING. One Statutory Notice was served during the year and the necessary work was carried out by the owner. 4 preliminary notices were served and the work was completed by the owner in each case.

A few cases of overcrowding exist.

Negotiations are in hand for the purchase of 1.66 acres of land for the erection of temporary houses. This is in addition to the acre of land adjoining the existing council houses, which is to be used for permanent houses.

FOOD SUPPLY. The following amounts of food were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

15 tins milk
1 tin baked beans
67½ lbs. cheese
57 lb. flour
55 eggs

BAKEHOUSES. There are four bakehouses in the district.

MILK.

Number of cowkeepers in the district	7
Number of retailers in the district	14

SCHOOLS. There are three schools in the district. The sanitary accommodation at two of the schools is insufficient and insanitary and should be improved as soon as possible.

DISINFECTION. Disinfection was carried out after all cases of infectious disease and two houses were disinfected for the eradication of vermin.

NUISANCES.

Number of complaints received	12
Number of notices served	10
Number of nuisances remedied	11

Your obedient Servant,

W.C.SMALES.

Medical Officer of Health.